AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for the continuous production of metal strip (1), ~~preferably cold-rolled strip and especially high-grade steel strip,~~ where the strip (1) to be produced is guided in the transport direction (R) through a system (2), in which the strip (1) is subjected to a rolling process, to a heating process, and to a chemical treatment, wherein the rolling process is conducted only after the strip has been heated and chemically treated, the thickness of the strip (1) being subjected to a reduction of 30-40%.

2. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the heating of the strip (1), the chemical treatment of the strip (1), and the rolling process are conducted in that order.

3. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the rolling process is a tandem rolling process.

4. (Canceled) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the strip (1) is subjected to a significant reduction~~, preferably by~~ of at least 20%.

5. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the chemical treatment is a pickling process.

6. (Currently Amended) System (2) for the continuous production of metal strip (1), ~~preferably cold-rolled strip and especially high-grade steel strip, specifically~~ for the implementation of the process according to Claim 1, where the strip (1) to be produced passes through the system (2) in the transport direction (R), and where the system (2) has an installation (3) for heating the strip (1), an installation (4) for chemically treating the strip (1), and an installation (5) for rolling the strip (1), wherein the installation (5) for rolling the strip (1) is located downstream, with respect to the transport direction (R), of the installation (3) for heating the strip (1) and of the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip, and in that the installation (5) for rolling the strip (2) has a tandem rolling mill (5a, 5b, 5c) whereby the thickness of the strip is reduced 30-40%.

7. (Previously presented) System according to Claim 6, wherein the rolling stands (5a, 5b, 5c) are designed as a multi-roll cold-rolling mill with a 6-high or Z-high roll arrangement.

8. (Previously presented) System according to Claim 6, wherein the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip (1) is a pickling installation.

9. (Previously presented) System according to Claim 6, wherein a stretcher-leveling unit (6) is located between the installation (3) for heating the strip (1) and the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip (1).

10. (Previously presented) System according to Claim 6, wherein a metal grain shot-blasting unit (7) is located between the installation (3) for heating the strip (1) and the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip (1).

11. (Previously presented) System according to Claim 6, wherein a trimmer unit (8) is installed downstream, with respect to the transport direction (R), of the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip (1).

12. (Previously presented) System according to Claim 6, wherein a degreasing installation (12) is installed upstream, with respect to the transport direction (R), of the installation (3) for heating the strip (1).